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Sporting Comment

TRULY the game of bowls is a breeder of good-fellowship. What could be nicer on a balmy summer afternoon than such a reasonable excuse for being outside? There is just enough exertion about it to make it exercise; just enough excitement to chase away ennui. And if you could ask for more, why, the refreshments are so handy. Given the right kind of bowlers—and there are no others—the right kind of weather and the right kind of refreshments, and the world of sport holds little else to long for. No wonder Drake refused to go out and trim the Spanish Armada till he had finished his game of bowls.

* *

It is pleasing to note that the Ottawa cricketers and their Toronto brethren will likely again join forces and divide the honour of being well walloped by the Yankees in the annual U. S. v. Canada match. Down in Ottawa they got the idea that there were too many Toronto men chosen on the team. And they may have been right, too. For the past two or three or more games have proved that the team was either picked by political pull or that the crop of cricketers in Canada doesn't afford much choice.

* *

Probably never before in the history of this country have such unique sports been witnessed as were held at Vancouver on Victoria Day. The contests were arranged for the foreigners living in that city, the men of one race being matched against men of another. When it is known that the games were all Canadian games and that the participants were Hindoos, Sikhs, Chinese, and Siwash Indians, many of whom, with the exception of the Siwashes, were unfamiliar with the games, it will readily be understood that the fun was uproarious. A tremendous crowd was present, so great, indeed, as to interfere with the sports at times.

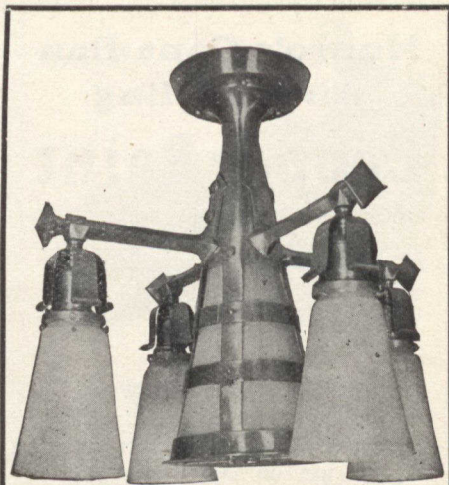
The principal event of the day was a football match between fifteen Indians and fifteen Sikhs. For solid amusement it is said nothing like it has ever been seen in this country. The Sikhs knew almost nothing about football, but they were all hardy, well-trained men from the north of India, and when the Indians began to pull them about by their gaudy turbans, nothing but the presence of the missionaries averted a race war on the spot. At half-time the Indians had scored one goal. In the second half the Sikhs understood the game a little better, and the glare of battle was in their eye. It was a wild game, and when at last the Sikhs succeeded in capturing a goal their excitement knew no bounds and they rushed about the field embracing and kissing one another! Lest the game should develop into a battle, it was thought well to terminate it at this point. Both teams played in their bare feet, and had there been a chiropodist on the ground, it is thought he would have done a land office business.

There was also a tug-of-war between Indians and Hindoos, in which the Indians finally won, although their opponents were heavier men.

Foot races were also run between Hindoos, Chinese and Indians, in which it was amply demonstrated that rice is no good as a diet for runners. In the Indians' race professionals jostled amateurs, and fouls were frequent, but all rules appear to have been suspended. There were also Chinese and Indian bicycle races and an Indian lacrosse match.

The programme was brought to a close by a wrestling match between a celebrated Hindoo wrestler, Baba Singh by name, and an Indian strong man named Billy. The Hindoo won a flying fall in two minutes, but the crowd closed in on them in their excitement, and further bouts had to be postponed. Great interest was shown in this contest, and another match has been arranged to be held at the Vancouver Athletic Club at an early date.

For some reason which has not been explained, the Japanese declined at the last moment to participate in the sports, although they had previously promised to take part.



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